

Neighborhood Watch

January - March 2012

Westminster Police Department

8200 Westminster Blvd.
Westminster, CA 92683

Emergencies Call 911

Business Line:

714-898-3315

Extensions:

3212 Dispatch
3220 Traffic Division
3218 Records Bureau

Business Hours:

Monday-Saturday
7am to 7pm

Website:

www.westminster-ca.gov/depts/police

AREA COMMAND:

WEST

Lt. Schoonmaker
714-548-3707

EAST

Lt. Vu
714-548-3725



this issue

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Neighborhood Watch & You



Since our last newsletter, there has been a significant event involving Neighborhood Watch that has gained national attention. For those of you unfamiliar with the

Trayvon Martin case out of Florida, I will provide a little context.

George Zimmerman, a volunteer Neighborhood Watch member, was "patrolling" his neighborhood when he saw 17 year-old Trayvon Martin walking down the street. He called 9-1-1 to report a suspicious subject and asked police to respond. For reasons unknown at this time, Zimmerman confronted Martin and a fight ensued. During the fight, Zimmerman produced a handgun and shot and killed Martin.

I do not want to talk about who was right and who was wrong in this case. Since I do not have all the details of this case, I will suspend judgment until the full details are released. However, it is important for each of you to know what we expect from our Neighborhood Watch groups here in Westminster. It is this topic, I will discuss in greater detail.

The name "Neighborhood Watch" in itself

explains our expectations. Simply put, we want neighbors looking out for each other and notifying the police when suspicious activity occurs. The active word is **"watch"**. I would never ask any member of our community to take action which could place them in harm's way. We have 90 sworn and highly trained officers who are available to investigate suspicious and criminal activity and deal with the risks associated with those investigations. Each officer is committed to providing you professional police service.

Each Neighborhood Watch group should pride itself in these three tasks:

- Communicate with your neighbors
- Be vigilant in looking for suspicious activity
- Immediately report all suspicious activity to the police department

These three tasks will greatly assist the safety and crime rate in your neighborhood, and more importantly, keep you and your family safe. We are proud of our Neighborhood Watch groups. Your support of your neighborhoods, our department and the City of Westminster is always appreciated. Please let us know if you have any questions, comments or concerns. We are here for you.

-Lt. Dan Schoonmaker

Tips for Protecting Your Home



Your home is your castle -- don't let it be a target for criminals. Keep in mind:

Most intruders seek easy targets.

They want to get in quickly and unseen. The harder you make it for them, the lower your risk of break-in.

Home security starts at the door

Install sturdy doors, door frames and hardware.

Solid wood or steel-reinforced doors offer much more protection than hollow-core wooden doors. Frames and hardware must be strong, too.

Use deadbolt locks.

They can't be "popped" the way spring-latch locks can. Don't use chain locks. They offer little protection and can give you a false sense of security.

Install a peephole.

ALWAYS know who's on the other side of your door before you open it. Don't rely on a chain.

Secure sliding glass doors.

Place a steel rod in the track. You can also drill a hole through the upper part of the slider and track. Then, insert a sturdy nail, bolt or screw. (Be sure you can remove it easily.)

Always keep your doors locked—even when you're home.

Don't give criminals a "window of opportunity"

Install key locks on the window sashes.

(Make sure everyone can get to the keys in case of an emergency). Make sure standard window locks close properly and are firmly attached to window frame.

Consider window pegs if you don't use key locks. Drill a hole at a downward angle where the sashes overlap. Insert a nail or peg. (Be sure you can remove the peg easily.)

Use lighting and landscaping to make your home's surroundings unattractive to burglars, vandals, and other criminals.

Position outdoor lights carefully.

Position them out of reach so bulbs can't be easily broken or unscrewed. Aim lights at garage and shed doors, entryways and ground level windows.

Consider different types of lights:

- Motion sensor floodlights turn on when a person or object moves past them.
- Photoelectric lights automatically turn on at dusk or off at dawn.

Keep plants trimmed.

Overgrown bushes can cover windows and doorways, giving burglars a hiding place. Prune trees with limbs that could provide easy access to upper floors. use chain locks. They offer little protection and can give you a false sense of security.

Plant thorny bushes under windows.

They can help keep intruders away.

Consider an alarm system.

It can offer extra protection, especially for people who live alone, are away often or have lots of valuables.

There are many things you can do to protect your home and give yourself some peace of mind.



City of Westminster Department Directory

Animal Control:
714-548-3201

Chamber of Commerce:
714-898-9648

City Hall:
714-898-3311

Code Enforcement:
714-893-3311

Fair Housing Department:
714-569-0823

Family Resource Center:
714-903-1331

Graffiti Hotline:
714-895-2876

**Midway City
Sanitary District:**
714-893-3553

Health Department:
714-677-3600

West Justice Center:
714-896-7111

Recruitment:
714-548-3732

**Westminster
Senior Center:**
714-895-2878

Vector Control:
714-971-2421



Being Aware & Staying Diligent About Your Personal Safety

Do You:

- Jog or walk by yourself early in the morning or late at night when the streets are quiet and deserted?
- Stuff your purse with cash, keys, credit cards, and checkbook—and then leave it wide open on a counter, desk or the floor?
- Put your wallet in a jacket, which you then hang up or throw over a chair?
- Think it's a waste of time to lock your car when you'll be back in a few minutes.

If you answered “yes” to any question, you should consider changing a few habits. Even if you answered “no” and made a perfect score, please read on.

Stay attentive and tuned in with your surroundings wherever you are—on the street, in an office building or shopping mall. Send the message that you are composed, confident, and know where you are going. **Trust your instincts.** If something or someone makes you uneasy, avoid the person or leave.

- When carrying a purse, hold it close to your body, not dangling by the straps. Place wallets in an inside coat or front pants pocket, not a back pocket.
- Try to use the ATM in the daytime. Have your card in hand and don't approach the machine if you are uneasy about people nearby.
- When you are walking, stick to well traveled streets with good lighting. Avoid shortcuts through parking lots or alleys. If you think someone is following you, switch direction or cross the street. Walk toward an open store, restaurant or lighted house. If you are scared yell help.
- Have to work late? Make sure there are others in the building, and ask someone—a colleague or security guard—to walk you to your car or transit stop. Avoid parking in isolated areas. Be especially alert in lots and underground parking garages. Always roll up the windows and lock car doors, even if you are coming right back. Check inside and out before getting in.

TAKE A STAND AGAINST CRIME!

Meet Our Volunteer Corps!



The Westminster Police Department is proud to “roll” our existing volunteer program out onto the streets. You may notice our capable and well-trained volunteers out in your neighborhood as they handle vacation checks and park checks. They are a great asset to our organization and to the City of Westminster, and are here to assist us in providing you a continued high level of service.

If you would like to have your home checked on while away on vacation, a request form is available on our website that you can complete and submit to us. You may also call 714-548-3205 to make your request. We will then schedule some of our volunteers to provide you with this complimentary service.

If you are interested in making a difference in your community and assisting the police department in making Westminster a safe place to live and work, consider joining our Volunteer Program. You must be 18 years of age, pass a background check, possess a valid California driver's license and live or work in Westminster. All volunteer applicants are interviewed and must complete a comprehensive background investigation. Background investigations include fingerprinting, a motor vehicle inquiry, as well as a personal and criminal history check. For more information about becoming a volunteer, visit our website or call Ofc. Jim Bodine 714-548-3752.



Westminster PD is now in partnership with CrimeReports, a comprehensive crime mapping website. CrimeReports enables us to quickly and easily provide crime and community policing data directly to citizens. It also provides simple analytics that give you an overall snapshot of crime in your area. Graph and pie charts provide a breakdown of recent crime by type and percentage, and the crime trend graph allows for a quick view of crime trends in your neighborhood. Log onto this free website to see up to date information about your area.

<http://www.crimereports.com>

REMINDER

All issues of the Neighborhood Watch Newsletter are available online at:
<http://www.westminster-ca.gov/depts/police/community>

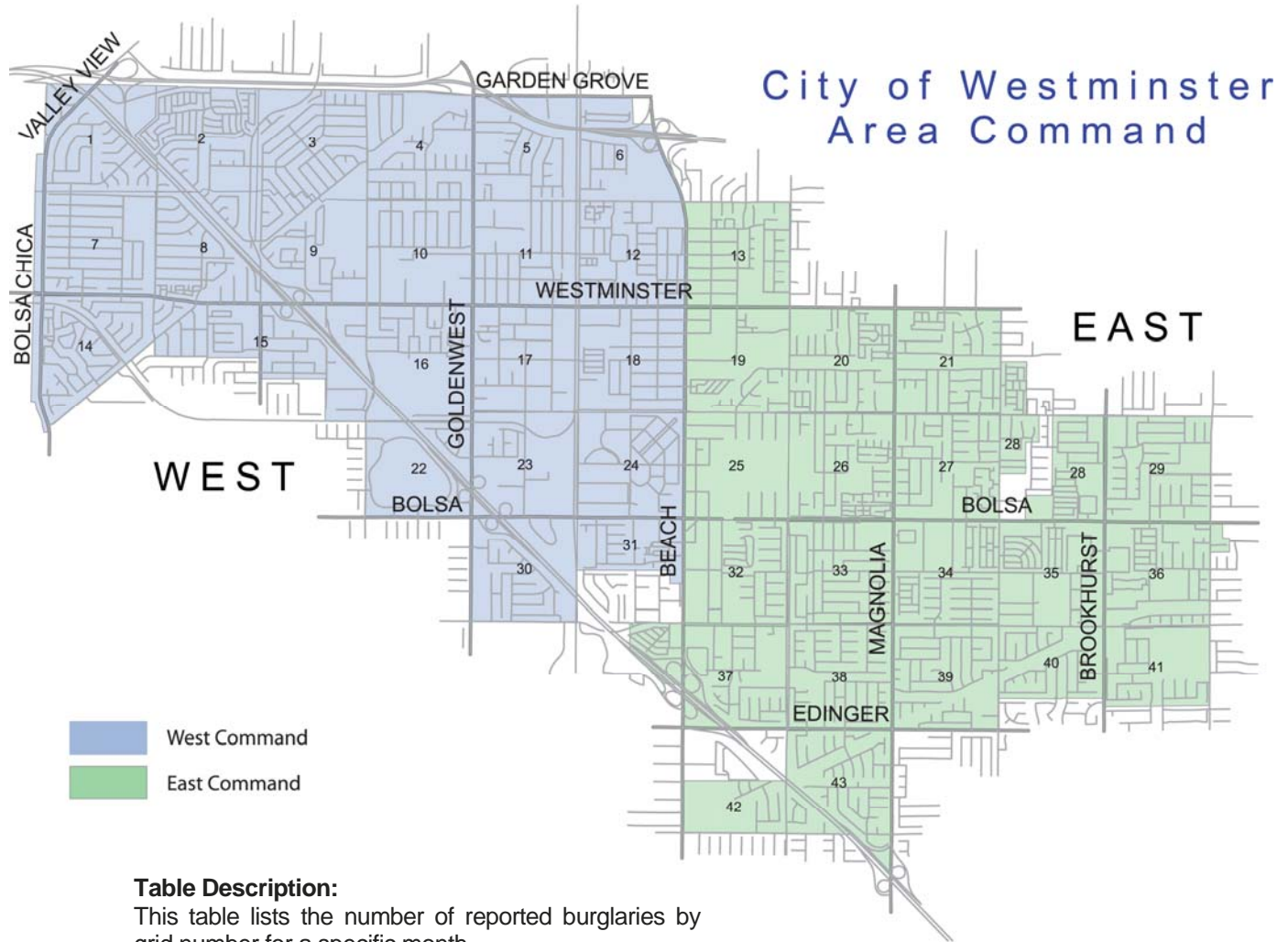


Table Description:

This table lists the number of reported burglaries by grid number for a specific month.

AREA	JAN	FEB	MAR	AREA	JAN	FEB	MAR	AREA	JAN	FEB	MAR
1	2	0	1	16	0	0	0	31	0	0	0
2	1	0	3	17	0	1	0	32	0	0	0
3	2	1	0	18	3	6	0	33	1	0	2
4	0	1	1	19	0	1	0	34	1	0	1
5	0	0	1	20	0	1	1	35	1	1	0
6	1	0	0	21	1	1	0	36	0	1	2
7	1	0	1	22	0	0	0	37	1	0	1
8	0	2	0	23	0	0	0	38	3	2	1
9	0	0	0	24	0	0	0	39	1	2	2
10	1	1	0	25	0	0	0	40	2	0	2
11	1	0	0	26	0	1	1	41	1	3	0
12	0	1	1	27	0	2	0	42	0	0	0
13	1	0	0	28	0	0	0	43	0	0	1
14	2	0	1	29	1	0	5	Totals	29	29	30
15	1	1	1	30	0	0	1				



CrimeReports is a free online service. Anyone can access and review this website to gain knowledge of the type of crime trends occurring in their community. <http://www.crimereports.com>